[29th January 1936

Government Press

Sale price of Acts published by the Government.

* 543 *Q.*—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any scale fixed for the sale price of Acts published by the Government of Madras; if so, what is the scale and how and on what data the price of publications is regulated;

(*b*) whether it is the Government's policy to keep the laws enacted at the disposal of the public at the lowest cheap rates possible;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the price of a copy of the District Municipalities Act is fixed at Rs. 2–4–0, whereas a copy of the Government of India Act is priced only at Re. 1; if so, what are the reasons for the difference in price; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to fix a flat rate for all Government publications, especially Acts of the legislature regulated by the size of the publication and make these easily accessible to the public?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The selling price of a publication is ordinarily calculated to the nearest suitable even figure by dividing the press cost by the full number of copies printed and adding a percentage to cover the commission paid to selling agents. Special prices irrespective of cost are however fixed for Acts, Bills, Proceedings of the Legislative Council, etc. The rates charged for Madras Acts in octavo size are as follows:—

Number of pages.	RS.	A.	P.
1	0	1	0
2	0	1	3
3	0	1	6
4	0	1	9
5	0	2	0
6	0	2	3
7	0	2	6
8	0	2	9
9	0	3	0
10	0	3	3
11	0	3	6
12	0	3	9
13	0	4	0
14	0	4	3
15	0	4	6
16	0	4	9
17	0	5	0
18 to 20	0	5	6
21 to 23	0	6	0
24 to 26	0	6	6
27 to 29	0	7	0

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Number of pages.	RS.	A.	P.
30 to 32	0	7	6
33 to 36	0	8	0
37 to 42	0	9	0
43 to 48	0	10	0
49 to 54	0	11	0
55 to 60	0	12	0
61 to 66	0	13	0
67 to 72	0	14	0
73 to 80	0	15	0
81 to 88	1	0	0

And 2 annas for each additional sheet of 16 pages, or portion of a sheet.

(*c*) The prices fixed for the Acts are as stated in the question. The difference in price is due to the different basis adopted by this Government and the Government of India for fixing the sale price of Acts.

(*d*) The answer to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) will show that the Government have already fixed flat rates for Madras Acts, regulated by the size of the publication. The Acts are already easily accessible to the public.

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether the Madras Government work out the price of their publication on a different basis from that followed by the Government of India and whether there is any proposal to adopt the Government of India rates?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"Our rates are not higher than those of the Government of India."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"The Government of India Act costs only Re. 1 whereas the Local Boards Act of this Province is priced at Rs. 2 though it is half in size. The cost amounts to four times that of the Government of India Act."

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"We cannot generalize from one instance. The principle on which the Government of India charge is the net cost plus 50 per cent distributed over the number of copies published; so, the cost of each copy depends very much on the number of copies actually printed; obviously Government of India publications have a very much larger sale than the local publications; therefore ultimately they can sell their publications cheaper. I do not think the Madras rate is in any way higher than the Government of India rate."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO:—"May I know if we might not adopt the basis on which the Government of India publications are sold?"

The Hon. Rao Bahadur A. T. PANNIRSELVAM:—"The basis is the net cost of printing plus 50 per cent; that seems to be the rate adopted by the Government of India. As far as our ordinary

publications are concerned, the rate is the net cost plus a certain percentage in order to cover the commission we give to the various sellers; as far as Acts and the proceedings of the Legislative Council are concerned, special rates are adopted to make them cheaper. I do not think that, by our adopting the Government of India rate, we shall be able to sell the publications at a lesser cost than we are now able to do."

Irrigation

Progress of the Palar Enquiry Committee.

* 544 *Q.*—Mr. M. B. Rangaswami Reddi: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Palar Committee has concluded its labours;

(*b*) if not, at what stage its enquiries are; and

(*c*) whether the Mysore Government have given the information called for?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 713, dated 25th February 1935. The Mysore Government have since furnished certain statistics. These have been referred to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation for examination and report. The Chief Engineer's report is awaited.

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I ask whether the Palar Committee will be given an opportunity to examine the statistics and the report of the Chief Engineer on the statistics?"

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—"I will see after I get the report from the Chief Engineer."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"When is the report likely to be received from the Chief Engineer?"

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—"I have no idea."

Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar:—"In view of the long delay and in order to enable us to come to a final conclusion, may I know whether the Government would ask the Chief Engineer to expedite the submission of his report?"

The Hon. Sir Charles Souter:—"I should prefer that the Chief Engineer should examine these statistics carefully."

Alleged silting up of the tanks in the Palar Anicut System in the North Arcot district.

* 545 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the Hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the various tanks in North Arcot in the Palar Anicut System and the class under which they are classified, and the length of supply available;